UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/410
19 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As members of the Security Council are aware, my Special Adviser on Cyprus, Mr. Diego Cordovez, visited Nicosia from 17 to 22 March 1998 for consultations with the leaders of the two Cypriot communities on the resumption of his efforts under my good offices mandate. Mr. Cordovez has since reported to me on the results of his talks. He has also briefed the members of the Security Council.

I regret that during my Special Adviser's visit to Cyprus it was not possible to find a common basis on which to resume the negotiations. While both interlocutors emphasized their continued belief that a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem should be pursued through the United Nations, they strongly disagreed on the parameters that should govern the process.

Mr. Clerides reconfirmed his readiness to resume discussions in the long-established framework. He maintained, at the same time, that that framework had been mandated by the Security Council and should not be changed. According to Mr. Clerides, it provided the appropriate forum for discussing and solving all problems relating to a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus conflict.

Mr. Denktash rejected the validity of the intercommunal framework, based on developments in connection with the accession of Cyprus to the European Union. He set out his views during his meetings with Mr. Cordovez in Cyprus and elaborated on them in a meeting with me, at his request, in Geneva on 28 March. In view of the implications of Mr. Denktash's new position, I would like to share with the members of the Security Council, in the following paragraphs, *in extenso*, the views of Mr. Denktash as he presented them to me in our meeting.

Mr. Denktash first stated that he firmly believed that the United Nations offered the best venue through which the Cyprus question could be most successfully handled. He was of the view that any resolution in Cyprus must be based on existing realities and the equal status of the two peoples. The time had come to recognize the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration did not have the legal or moral right to determine the future of the whole island and of the Turkish Cypriot people. It was thus necessary, for the success of our efforts, to adopt a new approach to the Cyprus question which would reflect those facts.

Mr. Denktash said that the lack of political parity and symmetry between the two sides in Cyprus was preventing progress. He wished to share with me, candidly, his assessment that the role of the United Nations in Cyprus, both in peacekeeping and in my good offices mission, had so far, unfortunately, helped and consolidated that political disparity and asymmetry. He believed that the new approach he was advocating would greatly facilitate the United Nations efforts for a lasting settlement.

According to Mr. Denktash, the intervention of the European Union instigated by Greece and the Greek Cypriot side had reached a climax at the Luxembourg Summit held in December 1997, and introduced elements which diametrically contradicted the parameters of the United Nations process, thus further complicating the already complex Cyprus conflict. Furthermore, the establishment of a unified military front between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, including the opening of the Paphos airbase and the prospective deployment of sophisticated S-300 missiles, within the context of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine, promised nothing but further crisis.

In shaping our future, Mr. Denktash said, the basic requirement was realism. In view of the prevailing realities, in order to coexist peacefully in the island and promote trust and cooperation between the two peoples, the two States should work out an arrangement which would enable them to resolve, in the first instance, the following three major issues:

- Settlement of reciprocal property claims;

- Security;

- Delineation of borders.

Mr. Denktash stated, in this context, that he had come to the conclusion that the acknowledgement of the existence of two fully functioning democratic States in the island, each with its own people, territory and effective Government, would open the way to the resolution of these three issues and the development of a new and cooperative relationship for the achievement of a final settlement. Furthermore, the inhuman embargoes imposed upon the Turkish Cypriot people should be removed.

Mr. Denktash also stressed that the current system of guarantees must continue and that the final settlement must maintain the internal balance between the two peoples of the island and the external balance between Turkey and Greece in the Eastern Mediterranean. He was confident that the new platform would create a new environment in which the two sides could work towards a common future based on cooperation, mutual trust and respect. The primary aim should, therefore, be the immediate achievement of a working relationship between the two States so that peace, stability and mutual trust could be secured and the danger of a new conflict averted. He referred to his letter of 5 March 1998 to Mr. Clerides, in which he had stated the foregoing and had also invited him to make together, in good faith, a new beginning on the basis of those realities.

Mr. Denktash said it was his firm belief that all concerned would have to adapt and realign their current positions to help the process forward. In this connection, he hoped that I would agree that it was necessary to consider adjusting the role of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the good offices mission to the realities pertaining to Cyprus, especially after the interventions of Greece and the European Union which had completely destroyed the political parity and symmetry needed for a solution of the conflict. This would enable us to make progress on the right track.

Mr. Denktash concluded by confirming that he was ready to work with me for a Cyprus settlement and a peaceful future on the basis of these realities.

Following Mr. Denktash's full and frank account of his position, I urged him to agree to resume talks within the framework of my good offices mission. I pointed out that the talks between the two leaders were the only framework within which the two communities in Cyprus were treated on the basis of full political equality. I told him that I intended to ask Mr. Cordovez to continue to explore with the parties ways of establishing fair and effective modalities for the continuation of the talks.

Both Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash requested that I inform the Security Council about their positions and the consequent status of the Cyprus efforts. I would therefore appreciate it if you could bring the contents of the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I shall look forward to any guidance the Council may wish to provide in support of my good offices mission.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN